

Drinking Water Information

If you own or operate a non-municipal seasonal residential drinking water system...

Many Ontarians enjoy using seasonal facilities for leisure and recreational purposes. As an owner/operator of a non-municipal seasonal residential drinking-water system, there are a number of requirements you must meet in order to comply with Ontario's Drinking-Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03).

If you are the owner or operator of a drinking water system that serves a seasonal facility such as communal cottages, a major residential development, trailer park, campground or any other accommodation facility that operates on a seasonal basis (not year-round) and has 6 or more sites with water hook-up, this fact sheet is for you. The information in this fact sheet will help you determine if your system is required to sample, test and treat your water according to the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation.

If you own a system with 5 or fewer sites with water hook-up, you are most likely the owner/operator of a small non-municipal non-residential drinking water system and this fact sheet does not apply to you. You should refer to the fact sheet entitled: *Drinking Water Information for Drinking Water System Owners and Operators of Small Non-Municipal Systems Serving the Public*. Call our Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4925 or check the Ministry

of the Environment's website at www.ene.gov.on.ca to get your copy.

However, if these requirements apply to you, this fact sheet will summarize the steps you must take to meet your responsibilities under the regulation.

A seasonal system is defined as:

A drinking water system that does not operate for at least 60 consecutive days in a year

Connected Systems and facilities

If your non-municipal seasonal residential drinking water system is connected to and obtains its water from another drinking water system that meets the treatment and testing requirements of O.Reg. 170/03, then you may be exempt from the requirement to provide treatment and may only have limited testing requirements. Refer to Section 5 of the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation for more information on the action you must take.

Furthermore, if you own a facility that is connected to and your water comes directly from a municipal or other drinking water system that is regulated under O.Reg.170/03 and meets the testing and treatment requirements of this regulation, and all the piping in your facility is plumbing under the

building code, then the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation **does not apply to your facility and nothing is required of you.** Regulated drinking water systems must meet stringent requirements under the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation to ensure that the water supplied to the homes and other buildings connected to the system is safe.

Non-municipal seasonal residential systems that must meet the testing and treatment requirements

If your drinking water system is not connected to another drinking water system meeting the testing and treatment requirements of O. Reg. 170/03, you should follow the steps summarized on pages 3 and 4. You should also refer to a more detailed kit that is available at:

www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4427e.pdf or you can obtain it by calling 1-800-565-4923.

Systems in this category were required to start sampling and testing water by **June 1, 2003**. In addition, systems in this category must install treatment equipment by **December 31, 2006 for both surface water sources and groundwater sources**. The actions you must take to meet your responsibilities under the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation are summarized on pages 3 and 4.

If your system serves a designated facility on site, owners and operators of drinking water systems serving these facilities were required to begin testing June 1, 2003. Owners and operators of designated facilities, except for seniors' residences not operated for commercial purposes and all children's camps, have been responsible for treating their water since **July 1, 2003**. Seniors' residences not operated for commercial purposes and all children's camps were required to comply with the treatment requirements as of **July 1, 2004**. For more details on these requirements, refer to the Children's Camp Fact Sheet or the Not-for-Profit Seniors' Residence Fact Sheet.

Maintaining your well

If your source of water is groundwater, you must also properly maintain your well to protect the groundwater supply.

Well owners are responsible for any wells on their property, so it is important that you understand the rules and what you can do to make sure your well

is properly constructed and maintained. Ontario's Wells Regulation (O. Reg. 903 under the ***Ontario Water Resources Act***) as amended in August 2003, sets out new standards for well construction, location and abandonment that must be followed by well owners and the contractors they hire to construct, repair and seal a well.

To learn more about these standards, please refer to the ministry's website www.ene.gov.on.ca for fact sheets on:

- Water well construction
- The protection of water quality in drilled wells
- The protection of water quality in bored or dug wells
- The protection of water quality in jetted and driven point wells

However, to be certain your well is in compliance, you should review Ontario's Wells Regulation. This can be viewed on the Ministry of the Environment website at www.ene.gov.on.ca. You can obtain a print copy by calling the ministry's Public Information Centre at 1-800-565-4923. You may also want to consider hiring a licenced well contractor to conduct an inspection.

Please remember that this fact sheet is provided for guidance only. For a complete understanding of your responsibilities as a drinking water system owner you must refer directly to the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation.

For the most up-to-date fact sheets, a kit explaining your responsibilities in more detail and for copies of the regulation, check the Ministry of the Environment's website at www.ene.gov.on.ca or call the Public Information Centre at: 1-800-565-4923.

Steps for Compliance with O. Reg. 170/03 Requirements for a Non-Municipal Seasonal Residential Drinking Water System

Step 1: Register your drinking water system

- To register your system, go to the Drinking Water Information System (DWIS) at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/environet/DWIS/index.htm and follow the online instructions.
- Once you have registered, you will be sent an email with your drinking water system number, category, user name and password, usually within one to two business days.
- While the Ministry of the Environment requires electronic submissions of information, you may be authorized to make paper submissions under special circumstances. Please call 1-866-793-2588 for more information about paper submissions.

Step 2: Select a licenced laboratory(ies) to analyze your drinking water samples

- Provide the Ministry of the Environment with information about the licenced laboratory(ies) you will use to analyze your drinking water samples by filling out a *Laboratory Services Notification Form*, which is available on DWIS at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/environet/DWIS/index.htm
- A list of laboratories that are licenced by the Ministry of the Environment to carry out drinking water testing services is available at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/sdwa/licencedlabs.htm

Step 3: Sampling and testing requirements

- It is your responsibility to know and meet the sampling and testing requirements applicable to your system.

Chemical sampling and testing requirements vary depending on the parameter.

Review Schedule 14 of the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation for the requirements. The regulation is available at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/water/sdwa/legislation.htm or by calling 1-800-565-4923.

- All organic and inorganic parameters listed in Schedules 23 and 24 of O. Reg. 170/03: **At least once every 5 years**
- Nitrate and Nitrite: **At least once every 3 months**
- Sodium, Fluoride, and Lead: **At least once every 5 years**
- If your drinking-water system is not operating for 60 or more consecutive days, you are not required to perform chemical sampling and testing during that period.

Microbiological sampling and testing requirements:

Note that sampling and testing is not required during the period of 7 or more consecutive days that your system is not in operation.

- Raw water samples must be collected: **At least once a month**
- Distribution samples must be collected:
 - If not chlorinating or chloraminating, **at least once a week**
 - If chlorinating or chloraminating, **once every 2 weeks**
 - If you serve over 100 service connections, you must take at least one distribution sample for every 100 connections every month in addition to the above.
- **A series of acceptable results over 24 consecutive months may allow you to reduce the frequency of sampling.**

- The way you collect and transport your drinking water samples affects the accuracy of your test results. It is critical that drinking water samples are collected and transported as specified by the laboratory(ies).
- For more information on collecting drinking water samples, refer to *A Kit for Regulated Non-Municipal Drinking Water Systems Owners*. You can access the kit online at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4427e.pdf or you can order a print copy by calling 1-800-565-4923.

Step 4: Have a “trained person” adjust equipment and conduct operational checks

- Once your treatment deadline comes into effect on December 31, 2006, ensure a “trained person” performs all necessary adjustments to the water treatment equipment and conducts any required operational checks (e.g. chlorine or turbidity tests).
- The “trained person” designation is obtained through completion of a Director-approved course every three years. More information is available at: www.oetc.on.ca or by calling 1-905-796-2851.

Step 5: Have an engineering evaluation report completed and submit written notice to the Ministry of the Environment

- Hire a professional engineer with experience in sanitary engineering to prepare your engineering evaluation report on the installation of treatment equipment.
- Names of some service providers are available at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4222e_appendix.htm

- If your system began operating **on or after June 1, 2003**, the engineering evaluation report is due **within 30 days** of operation and/or following an alteration to the system.
- If your system began operating **before June 1, 2003**, the report is due within 30 days of: **December 31, 2006 for both surface water systems and groundwater systems, and after that date within 30 days of any alteration to your system.**
- Submit written notice to the Ministry of the Environment within 7 days of receiving the report using an *Engineering Evaluation Report Notice* available on DWIS at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/environet/DWIS/index.htm
- Do not submit the report to the Ministry of the Environment. Keep it on file and make it available upon request.

Know Your Minimum Treatment Requirements

- Primary Disinfection for groundwater sources.
- Filtration and Primary Disinfection for surface water sources.

Step 6: Applying for full relief from requiring any treatment

- You can only apply for full relief from treatment requirements if your drinking water system relies on a groundwater source. Your engineering report should include this information.
- Consult with users of the system and with your local Medical Officer of Health, then summarize comments and responses.
- Submit the summary and provide written notice to the Ministry of the Environment using the appropriate application. Refer to the *Guide for Applying for Approvals Related to Municipal and Non-Municipal Drinking-Water Systems* available at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/envision/gp/4467e.pdf

Step 7: Notify authorities of adverse test results and other problems

- As soon as you become aware of an adverse test result or if you observe that your drinking water system is not properly disinfecting water that is being directed to users, immediately contact your local Medical Officer of Health AND the Ministry of the Environment Spills Action Centre (SAC). SAC can be reached at: 1-800-268-6060.
- Submit written notice to both of the above authorities within 24 hours using the *Written*

Notification of Adverse Water Quality Incident form available on DWIS at:

www.ene.gov.on.ca/environet/DWIS/index.htm

- Submit written notice to the ministry and the local Medical Officer of Health of action taken and results achieved within 7 days after the issue is resolved using the *Written Notification of Adverse Water Quality Incident* form available on DWIS at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/environet/DWIS/index.htm

Step 8: Take corrective action

- Refer to Schedule 18 of the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation for actions you must take following adverse test results or other problems.
- Where required, post warning notices in prominent locations where it is likely to be seen by those using water from the system.
- Obtain Ministry of the Environment-approved warning notices by calling 1-800-565-4923.

Step 9: Submit an annual report

- The Drinking-Water Systems Regulation requires that all regulated drinking water systems submit an annual report.
- Annual reports are due to the Ministry of the Environment by December 31st of each year, and cover the reporting period from November 1st of the previous year through to October 31st of the current year.
- Submit the report to the Ministry of the Environment using the *Annual Report* format available on DWIS at: www.ene.gov.on.ca/environet/DWIS/index.htm

Step 10: Make information available to the public

- Keep copies of the following reports on site, and make them available on request, free of charge, during normal business hours:
 - Annual reports for the last two years
 - Engineering Evaluation Reports for the last two years
 - All required test results, approvals and orders issued for the last two years
 - A copy of the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03)

If you would like more information, please contact the Ministry of the Environment's Public Information Centre at: 1-800-565-4923.

You may access all the documents including the Drinking-Water Systems Regulation (O. Reg. 170/03) and DWIS notices and reports at: www.ene.gov.on.ca